

City Council Meeting Minutes

**October 8, 2019
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Muckle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present:

City Council: ***Mayor Robert Muckle
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lipton
Councilmember Chris Leh
Councilmember Susan Loo
Councilmember Dennis Maloney
Councilmember Ashley Stolzmann***

Absent: ***Councilmember Jay Keany***

Staff Present: ***Heather Balser, City Manager
Megan Davis, Deputy City Manager
Kevin Watson, Finance Director
Meredyth Muth, City Clerk***

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON 2020 BUDGET FOR URBAN REVITALIZATION DISTRICT AND REVIEW OF CALCULATION FOR REVENUE PLEDGED TO DEBT SERVICE

Director Watson reviewed the proposed 2020 budget for the Urban Revitalization District. This will be reviewed and approved by the Revitalization Commission (LRC) prior to coming to Council for approval. He reviewed the assessed valuation; interest earnings; expenses; contributions to the City, Boulder County, and the Fire District; as well as fees. He noted the principal payments on the bonds and planned payment increases.

Director Watson reviewed how Tax Increment Financing payments are calculated and how bond payments are affected by the increasing appraisals. He noted the base value of the district and the base area are calculated differently requiring some adjustments to the calculations. He reviewed the calculation of the outstanding bond principal with a 7% interest rate. The bonds were used to pay for infrastructure improvements in the urban renewal district.

Members discussed the pros and cons on paying off the bonds early. Director Watson pointed out these specific bonds do not have a municipal requirement to be paid off if the Urban Renewal District defaults.

City Manager Balser stated the long-term financial plan for the LRC also will consider this issue and what it can do over the long-term.

City Manager Balser noted the budget numbers currently include a payment to the Fire District as a place holder until an agreement is reached with the District.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton stated he would like the costs for professional services for financial analysis be paid by applicants not the LRC.

Director Watson reviewed the property tax revenue increases from 2008 to present.

City Manager Balser noted the LRC budget will come to Council for consideration at the October 15 meeting.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – DRAFT 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Deputy City Manager Davis noted the legislative agenda is used to inform our partners about our policy priorities and serves as a road map on engagement in legislative activities. It also guides our engagement with state associations, regional groups, and partners.

Staff uses the prior year as a starting point for the agenda and each department identifies issues and priorities. Staff looks to address emerging legislative issues. Staff also seeks to incorporate issues identified by the intergovernmental groups to which we belong.

Some changes for 2020 include items related to transportation funding, sustainability and solid waste, tobacco and vaping, and family leave. She noted staff is not anticipating changes to oil and gas regulations this year.

Deputy City Manager Davis stated staff is asking for proposed changes and if anything is missing. Members reviewed the document and made suggestions for language changes.

Home Rule – Members requested updated language to identify collaboration with state and federal agencies when appropriate and included language regarding oil and gas input in the rule making process anticipated this year.

Tax & Finance Policy – Members added language about proportional distribution of sales tax funds.

Internal Administrative Services – Members added language to clarify municipal services. Members discussed how these legislative positions might affect records management and the Family Medical Leave Act and adjusted the language.

Public Health and Safety – Members discussed if age limits on vaping should be included in the language and the pros and cons around if this should be done by municipality or at the state level.

Councilmember Loo asked why vaping and tobacco are included for possible changes while marijuana is not. Mayor Pro Tem Lipton noted that marijuana is included in the constitution while tobacco is not.

Members asked for new language that would confirm the City and State each have the authority to regulate certain items. Members discussed how far reaching they want the language to be and what the goal of the language should be. Staff will rewrite the language for Council consideration to include information about what the City would like to regulate if the State does nothing related to vaping and tobacco.

Public Comments

Vape shop owners in attendance stated they already try to make sure they are not selling to underage youth. They do support buying restrictions for youth.

Councilmember Leh stated he would like language that includes the State cover some of the costs of mental health care for persons in custody.

Energy & Environment – Councilmember Loo and Councilmember Maloney would like some language included about cost effectiveness and reliable energy. Members agreed to this addition in the final draft.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton would like some language added about aircraft noise either here or under the land use section, particularly regarding any possible expansion of the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. Members agreed.

Transportation – Members included language referencing a “fixed-rail guided system” for the Northwest Rail item. Members requested additional language related to transportation funding and reporting requirements for RTD for consideration in the final version.

Utilities – No changes

Land Use – Staff will add language regarding airport noise.

Members made various language suggested changes to the agenda. Staff will bring back a final version for consideration at the November 4 Council meeting.

DISCUSSION – CURRENT CITY MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS

Deputy City Manager Davis gave an overview of the major intergovernmental organizations in which the City is a member. This covers the six largest organizations to which the City belongs and in which we participate as a formal member. The City is relatively small and doesn't have a lobbyist so we use these organizations help us advance our positions.

Members discussed some pros and cons of membership and generally agreed they are all good to belong to.

ADVANCED AGENDA & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members reviewed the advanced agenda.

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Robert P. Muckle, Mayor

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk